



The Catholic Parishes of Athens & Meigs Counties

75 Stewart Street, Athens, Ohio 45701

www.athenscatholic.org

May 15, 2020

RE: May 15 Update

Resuming Public Masses

Last week, the Bishops of Ohio shared a plan to resume offering public Masses on the Solemnity of Pentecost, May 30-31. Please note, Bishop Monforton has extended the dispensation for attending Mass in person, especially to those advanced in age or in vulnerable / at-risk groups and those who care for them.

We are still finalizing plans for our community's weekend Mass guidelines based on the feedback we asked from you earlier this week. We will share these plans with you at the beginning of next week. We appreciate your patience as we work out some of the challenges associated with the safety precautions that have been outlined for us. **Be aware that our Mass schedules and arrangements might change because of the new guidelines. However, we will take every measure to ensure your safety during these times.**

We will need volunteers to help clean after each Mass, and ushers to guide people coming to church, so be on the lookout for opportunities to volunteer.

Also, please be aware that once Masses resume, the Bishop has prohibited socials before and after Masses. So, no coffee and donuts after Masses for the time being!

Daily Mass Schedule

Daily Masses for our community will resume on Monday, May 18 on the following schedule: **Please note the changes in times and locations.**

- **8:00 a.m.** Monday-Friday: St. Paul, Athens
The 8:00 a.m. Friday Mass will be offered in the Extraordinary Form.
- **8:30 a.m.** Wednesday and Friday: Sacred Heart, Pomeroy
The 8:30 a.m. First Saturday Mass will also continue at Sacred Heart, Pomeroy
- **8:30 a.m.** Tuesday morning: St. Mary of the Hills
- **12:15 p.m.** Friday: Christ the King, Athens

A daily Mass for Holy Cross will be published once Fr. Matthew has his summer class schedule finalized.

If you plan to attend Daily Mass next week, please sit in the pews marked with blue tape only, while observing distancing regulations. The priest offering Mass will give instructions regarding the reception of Holy Communion. You are encouraged, but not required, to wear masks and bring your own hand sanitizer. Because of the national shortage, our hand sanitizing supplies are limited. If worn, masks and gloves should be removed to receive Communion.

Churches are still Open

The churches remain open daily for private prayer.

- St. Paul is open after Daily Mass until 7:00 p.m.
- Christ the King is open 24 hours with the exception of during the Sunday livestream. Please use the side door to the parking lot to enter.
- Sacred Heart is open from 10:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.
- Holy Cross is open from 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

First Communion & Confirmation

We know that the students and families of our Religious Ed/CCD/Faith Formation programs at all of the parishes are eager to know when we can celebrate the Sacraments of Initiation with them. We will schedule First Communion once we have a more settled schedule. The Bishop has cancelled all upcoming Confirmations throughout the Diocese. Thank you for your continued patience!

Cloth Masks

We still have several cloth masks available at the parish office. Wearing masks to cover our noses and mouths when we enter stores and other places where we will encounter others in close spaces is something that has been called for by the governor. If you would like a cloth mask but do not have one, let us know at the office so we can arrange for you to pick one up. Several parishioners are making them, and would be glad to make one for you! Please note that these are cloth masks, and not "N95" masks.

This Weekend's Mass & Confession Times

Confessions will be heard on Saturday at 10:00 a.m. at Christ the King and Sacred Heart churches. Mass for the Sixth Sunday of Easter will be streamed on Sunday at 10:00 a.m. via our YouTube channel. We apologize for the technical difficulties we experienced last weekend - the camera should be back up and running this weekend! The link for Mass is [here](#), and the readings can be found [here](#).

